



THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
20250-0100

June 14, 2005

Senator Craig Thomas  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thomas:

You have been an outspoken advocate for Wyoming's sugar beet growers during the debate on the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. You, Senator Chambliss, and others have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to resolving your sugar producers' concerns about the agreement while trying to find a way for the rest of agriculture to reap its benefits. I appreciate and respect your desire, as Chairman of the International Trade Subcommittee to find a workable solution.

As the Senate Committee on Finance begins consideration of CAFTA-DR this morning, I want to assure you that I remain receptive to discussing any reasonable proposals that may help address your sugar growers' concerns. I know that you have been working towards that goal, so I stand ready to work with you in good faith and am optimistic that our collaborative efforts could develop a way forward.

Your constituents are fortunate to have someone who is so dedicated to promoting and protecting the interests of Wyoming's farmers and ranchers. I look forward to partnering with you and your colleagues to deliver trade agreements that will boost U.S. agricultural exports for the benefit of your producers and all of American agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns", written over a horizontal line.

Mike Johanns  
Secretary